



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

Ms. Valerie Nottingham
National Institutes of Health, ORF
B13/2S11, 9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for NIH Bethesda Chilled Water System
Improvements, Bethesda, Maryland CEQ #20150203

Dear Ms, Nottingham:

In accordance with Section 102(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2) (C), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above referenced project. The Final EIS is for the assessment of chilled water system improvements at the National Institutes of Health campus located in Bethesda, Maryland.

On June 5, 2015, EPA provided comments on the Draft EIS. Those comments included a project rating of LO (Lack of Objection). While EPA rated the proposed project as LO, it also recommended that the Final EIS consider as part of the analysis, estimations of the greenhouse house gas emissions, the possible climate change impacts and a discussion on the resiliency to climate change in the project design for the proposed project in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality's revised draft Guidance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change. EPA continues to suggest that project resiliency to climate change be considered. EPA recommends that project resiliency to climate change be incorporated into the project's environmental documentations before or within the Record of Decision.

Thank you for allowing EPA the opportunity to review and comment on the Final EIS. If you have questions regarding these comments, the contact for this project is Mr. Kevin Magerr; he can be reached at (215) 814-5724.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Rudnick", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader
Office of Environmental Programs